

Mrs. Mc Grath

Allegro *p*

"Oh Mis-sis Mc Grath!" the ser-geant said, "Would you

mf *P leggiero*

like to make a sol-dier out of your son, Ted, With a scar-let coat and a

three-cocked hat, Now Mis-sis Mc Grath, would - n't you like that?"

Chorus *f* *D.C.*

Wid yer too-ri-aa, fol de did-dle-aa Too-ri-oo-ri-oo-ri-aa

f *D.C.*

Oh Mrs. McGrath lived on the sea-shore
For the space of seven long years or more
Till she saw a big ship sailing into the bay.
“Here’s my son Ted, wisha, clear the way.”

Chorus.

“Oh, Captain dear, where have you been
Have you been sailing on the Mediterreen
Or have ye any tidings of my son Ted
Is the poor boy living or is he dead?”

Chorus.

Then up comes Ted without any legs
And in their place he has two wooden pegs
She kissed him a dozen times or two
Saying, “Holy Moses, ’tisn’t you.”

Chorus.

“Oh, then were ye drunk or were ye blind
That ye left yer two fine legs behind
Or was it walking upon the sea
Wore yer two fine legs from the knees away?”

Chorus.

“Oh, I wasn’t drunk and I wasn’t blind
But I left my two fine legs behind
For a cannon ball on the fifth of May
Took my two fine legs from the knees away.”

Chorus.

“Oh, then, Teddy me boy,” the widow cried,
“Yer two fine legs were yer mammy’s pride
Them stumps of a tree wouldn’t do at all
Why didn’t ye run from the big cannon ball?”

Chorus.

“All foreign wars I do proclaim
Between Don John and the King of Spain
And by herrins I’ll make them rue the time
That they swept the legs from a child of mine.”

Chorus.

Mrs. McGrath

Ireland has always been “difficult” about the English Occupation, but, on the other hand, England has always been able to find a large number of Irishmen to fight for her in her many foreign wars. The subject of this song appears to have fought in the Peninsular War against Napoleon, under the Duke of Wellington, who was himself Irish-born. The thought underlying this song, as the one that follows, is an expression of courage, the use of wit to paint a tragedy and make the telling bearable.

The name “McGrath” is pronounced as “McGrah”—the “t” being silent.